

Claims

1. A process for preparing a foam component, said process comprises the steps of extruding a viscous mixture through an aperture of a rotating extrusion plate, onto a receiving surface, and wherein a gas is incorporated into said viscous mixture either prior to, simultaneous to, or subsequent to, said viscous mixture being extruded through said aperture.

2. A process according to claim 1, whereby said viscous mixture has a viscosity of from 25mPas to 20000mPas, preferably from 50mPas to 10000mPas.

3. A process according to any preceding claim, whereby the shortest distance between said extrusion plate and said receiving surface is from 50 micrometers to 3000 micrometers.

4. A process according to any preceding claim, whereby said aperture is of a size of from 50 micrometers to 3000 micrometers.

5. A process according to any preceding claim, whereby said viscous mixture has a water content of from 0.1 wt% to 80 wt%, preferably from 60 wt% to 80 wt%.

6. A process according to any preceding claim, whereby the direction of rotation of the rotating extrusion plate is perpendicular to the direction of flow of the viscous liquid through the aperture of said rotating extrusion plate.

7. A process according to any preceding claim, whereby said viscous mixture comprises a member selected from the group consisting of polymeric material, plasticiser, active ingredient, combination thereof, and preferably a comprises a member selected from the group consisting of dissolution aid, stability aid, or combination thereof.

8. A process according to any preceding claim, whereby said viscous mixture is extruded through said aperture at a temperature of from 0°C to 50°C.

9. A process according to any preceding claim, whereby said aperture is in the shape of a diamond, a square or a circle, or a triangle, preferably a diamond.

10. A process according to any preceding claim, whereby said gas comprises carbon dioxide, nitrogen, or combination thereof such as air.

11. A process according to any preceding claim, whereby said rotating extrusion plate rotates at from 1rpm to 1000rpm, preferably from 10rpm to 200rpm, and the tip speed of said rotating extrusion plate is from 0.1ms<sup>-1</sup> to 1600ms<sup>-1</sup>.

12. A process according to any preceding claim, whereby said receiving surface and/or said rotating extrusion plate is partially coated with a release agent.

13. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein said foam component is water-soluble or water-dispersible.

14. Use of a process according to any preceding claim to prepare a foam component suitable for use in cleaning compositions, fabric care compositions, personal care compositions, cosmetic compositions, pharmaceutical compositions, preferably to incorporate therein active ingredients selected from the group consisting of enzymes, perfumes, surfactants, brighteners, dyes, suds suppressors, bleaches, bleach activators, fabric softeners, antibacterial agents, effervescing systems, and mixtures thereof.

15. A foam component obtainable by a process according to any of claims 1 to 13.

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